

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**APPARATUS AND METHOD OF SHARING A DEVICE BETWEEN PARTITIONS
OF A LOGICALLY PARTITIONED COMPUTER SYSTEM**

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10 A method, system and apparatus for allowing a device to
be shared among partitions of a logically partitioned
computer system are provided. A table is used to cross-
reference a list of devices with a list of partitions that
may share the devices. When a partition needs to use a
device, it sends a request to a control node. Upon
receiving the request, the control node consults the table
15 to determine whether the partition has permission to use the
device. If so and the device is currently idle, the control
node will reassign the device to the requesting partition.
If the device is busy, the control node will so notify the
partition. After the requesting partition has used the
20 device, the device will be reassigned to the partition to
which it was originally assigned.